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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,759	01/10/2002	Uwe Glatzel	225MU/50807	3217

7590

03/20/2003

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EXAMINER

SHEEHAN, JOHN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/041,759

Applicant(s)

GLATZEL ET AL.

Examiner

John P. Sheehan

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--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 and 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 6 to 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by each of Walston et al. (Walston, US Patent No. 5,270,123) or Nguyen-Dinh (Nguyen-Dinh, US Patent No. 4,935,072).

Each of the references teaches a single crystal nickel based superalloy used in making gas turbines (Walston, column 1, lines 15 to 20 and Nguyen-Dinh, column 2, lines 5 to 10). Each of the references teaches at least one specific example alloy having a composition that is encompassed by the claims and which is made by simply casting the molten alloy as recited in applicants' claim 8 (for example, see Walston, columns 3 and 4, Table 1, Alloy 10 and Nguyen-Dinh, column 11, Table 1, Alloys I and

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J). Applicants' claimed invention does not distinguish over the specific examples taught by Walston and Nguyen-Dinh.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 to 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bornstein et al. (Bornstein, PCT Document No. WO 93/24683, cited in the IDS submitted January 10, 2002 as reference AK) either alone or in combination with the admission made by applicants in the specification at page 3, paragraphs 0011 and 0012.

Bornstein teaches a single crystal nickel based superalloy for use in gas turbine engines (page 1, lines 9 and page 2, lines 15 to 18). The alloy composition disclosed by Bornstein has a composition that overlaps applicants' claimed alloy composition (page 5, the table). Bornstein teaches that the turbine parts are made by simply casting the molten alloy as recited in instant claim 8 (page 4, lines 2 to 20 and Figure 1).

At page 3, paragraphs 0011 and 0012, line 3 applicants disclose that rhenium and tungsten are result effective variables (page 3, paragraph 0011) and acknowledge that the instant invention is based on the optimization of the rhenium and tungsten contents (page 3, paragraph 0012, line 3).

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Applicants' claims and Bornstein differ in that Bornstein does not teach the specific proportions recited in the applicants' claims.

However, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because Bornstein's alloys are single crystal alloys as recited in the applicants' claims and overlap applicants' claimed alloy and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, In re Malagari, 182 USPQ 549 and MPEP 2144.05.

Further, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious in view applicants' admission that rhenium and tungsten are result effective variables and that the claimed invention is based on the optimization of the rhenium and tungsten contents because optimization of result effective variables is obvious, MPEP 2144.05.

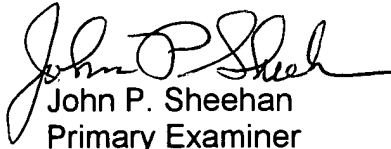
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Sheehan whose telephone number is (703) 308-3861. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (6:30-5:00) Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (703) 308-1146. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.



John P. Sheehan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

jps
March 18, 2003